Nicole to start new life in US with boyfriend

By Tarra Quismundo

"NICOLE," 24, HAS DECIDED TO LEAVE her painful past behind and start afresh with her American boyfriend of two years, according to her mother.

"She decided that it's time to move on," the mother told the Inquirer yesterday on the phone.

"It's been so difficult for us. We've been suffering for so long—for three years now—and the attention of the media continues. Our lives haven't moved. And

NICOLE TO START A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, March 18, 2009 ★★ Vol. 24 / No. 100 website: www.inquirer.net

Wild, wonderful lizards liven up PDI Read-Along

By Schatzi Quodala
Inquirer Research

NINETY CHILDREN, TWO LEOPARD geckos, a blue-tongued skink and a bearded dragon attended the wild and wonderful read-along session on Saturday at the Philippine Daily Inquirer office in Makati City.

PDI A11

Nicole recants, clears Smith

She's now in US with ₱100K in payment

By Julie M. Aurelio and Norman Bordadora

THE FILIPINO WOMAN who accused an American Marine of raping her in November 2005 has not only recanted more than two years after winning a conviction, but has also accepted money from him and flown to the United States for good.

This, amid resurgent controversy over the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA).

In a press conference yesterday, lawyer Evalyn Ursua said she was informed on Monday by the mother of her client, "Nicole," that she had been dropped as legal counsel.

But Ursua promised to continue fighting the VFA and to assist other Filipino women in similar straits.

She said Nicole's mother had handed her a letter terminating her legal services.

"Since it was Nicole and not her family who was my client, I asked Nicole's mother why Nicole didn't personally see me to hand the letter, or even give me a call. She replied that Nicole left for the US last week, for good," the lawyer said.

Nicole also issued a sworn statement on March 12 saying she expected her motives to be questioned.

NICOLE RECANTS A10

Judge Pozon: Recantation doesn't mean acquittal yet

By Marlon Ramos

THE RECANTATION OF "NICOLE" will not necessarily lead to the acquittal of her convicted rapist, the Makati City judge who issued the guilty verdict said yesterday.

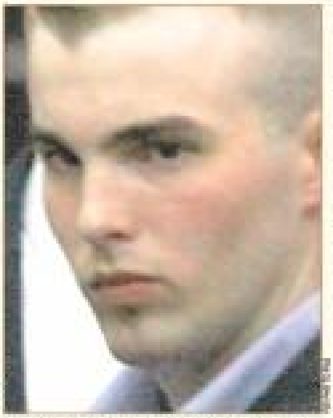
Judge Benjamin Pozon, executive judge of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 139, said he was not informed that Nicole had retracted the statements she had made during the yearlong rape trial of Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith.

Pozon declined to comment on Nicole's action, saying the Court of Appeals was still reviewing his deci-

JUDGE A10



THE UNVEILING, UNMASKING OF 'NICOLE' Suzette S. Nicolas outs herself with the shocking affidavit below submitted to the court.



HEAVYWEIGHT Daniel Smith weighs a lot heavier (in more ways than the obvious) than this photo of him three years ago.

SWORN STATEMENT

'If he wanted to rape me, why would he carry me out using main entrance?'

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Annex A
CITY OF MAKATI

I, SUZETTE S. NICOLAS, of legal age, Filipino, a resident of Zamboanga City, after being duly sworn in accordance with law, hereby depose and state:

[illegible]

AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.

SUZETTE S. NICOLAS
Affiant

[illegible]

ABRAHAM REY M. ACOSTA
Notary Public for Makati City

Parad calls up Gordon to deny he's dead

By Julie S. Alipala
in Zamboanga City
Tarra Quismundo and Kristine L. Alave
in Manila

CAN A DEAD MAN TALK?

Sen. Richard Gordon, Philippine National Red Cross chair, said he spoke to Albader Parad, the leader of the Abu Sayyaf group holding three International Red Cross workers hostage, at 6 last night after reports said the latter may have been killed in an encounter with the military.

"He called me up, saying that he's OK," said Gordon.

Gordon said Parad told him he had a wound in the shoulder but turned down an offer of medicine.

"We're just resting, including the Red Cross workers," Gordon quoted

PARAD A17

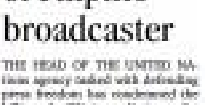
Unesco chief assails killing of Filipino broadcaster

THE HEAD OF THE UNITED NAtions agency tasked with defending press freedom has condemned the killing of a Filipino radio journalist who was shot dead by two masked gunmen last month.

Koichiro Matsuura, director general of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco), said the killing of Ernesto Rollin, 40, who had hosted a popular local radio news program in Mindanao, was unacceptable.

"I condemn the murder of Ernesto Rollin. This murder is an attack on press freedom, an attack on

UNESCO CHIEF A11



Jinggoy sure 'Bigote' in slay case not Erap

By Christine O. Avendaño

YOU CAN'T PIN HIS OLD MAN down, not even by a whisker.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada shrugged off a report that had Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez citing a character code named "Bigote" (moustache) when asked if deposed President Joseph Estrada, the senator's father, was ever mentioned in a recent and still classified affidavit on the 2000 Dacer-Corbito murder case.

"There are so many men sporting

JINGGOY A6

Rich Munti inmates stay in ₱50,000 'kubols'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

SEVERAL INMATES WERE PARTICULARLY happy when the 10 remaining convicted soldiers in the murder of former Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and purported assassin Rolando Galman walked out of the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) as free men nearly two weeks ago.

They just got themselves a new and better "home."

Prisoners at the maximum security compound who have extra cash to spend but were staying in pitiable cells scrambled for the fairly comfortable "kubols" which the former soldiers had put up on sale, ranging from ₱5,000 to ₱50,000, when they were discharged from NBP on March 3.

A kubol refers to a stand-alone structure or a small room within a building exclusively used by the owner. Though not allowed by law, these structures have already become customary inside the national penitentiary—their style and size depend on the resources of

RICH A6

Second FRONT PAGE

EZ2: 31 15 · 30 22

SUERTRES: 6 2 4 · 6 5 4 · 7 9 6

SIX DIGIT: 7 5 5 3 6 0

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN: 1 5 22 28 29 32 — P14,097,927.60

SUPERLOTTO 6/49: 3 20 22 33 35 38 — P73,794,661.30

SEC chief's husband faces probe

CHR to probe roots of media harassment

By Alcuin Papa

[illegible]

What's up with Gaite in SEC?

By Christine O. Avendaño

[illegible]

By TJ Burgonio and Christine O. Avendaño

THE PRESIDENTIAL ANTI-GRAFT Commission (PAGC) has expanded its investigation of the Legacy group fiasco to include the alleged ties of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chair Fe Barin's husband to the troubled companies, officials said yesterday.

[illegible]



BARIN

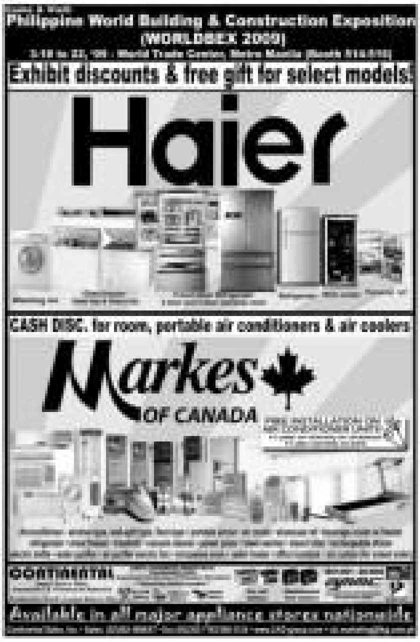
P5,400 for processing

[illegible]

Investigating Martinez

[illegible]





Now, Pangilinan wants VFA renegotiated, not junked

SC chief's accuser at it again

By Norman Bordadora

Schools drug testing halted

By Philip C. Tubeza

RP bucks plan to provide needles to drug abusers

Corrections

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Rich Munti inmates stay in ₱50,000 'kubols'



THE RICH ARE UNLIKE THE POOR.

Aid from Jalosjos

Room in the chapel

Jinggoy sure 'Bigote' in slay case not Erap

Out of character

Passing mention

Media ban

Korean fugitive nabbed, faces deportation

PONTIFICAL AND ROYAL

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

Our Thomasian Achievers Becoming the Nation's Competent, Compassionate and Committed Leaders

Student Awards Day 2009

MARCH 18, 2009 9:00 A.M.

EDUCATION AUDITORIUM

Guest Speaker:
DR. REYNALDO B. AQUINO
President & CEO
Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
UST Doctor of Medicine '79

RECTOR'S ACADEMIC AWARD

POPE LEO XIII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AWARD

QUEZON LEADERSHIP AWARD

ST. DOMINIC DE GUZMAN AWARD

BENAVIDES OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Congratulations to all the Awardees!

AMID TENSION OVER SPRATLYS

Chinese lawmaker postpones visit

Jailed general worried about jailed wife, sons

Nicole recants, clears Smith

Question of custody

Indictment of justice system

'No justice'

₱100,000 payment



WHAT WENT BEFORE

She wanted death for Smith

'Don't look at us'

The fight continues

Public crime

'Shocked'

Nicole to start new life in US with American boyfriend, says mom



New guy

'Leave Smith to God'

Judge Pozon: Recantation doesn't mean acquittal yet

May or may not

Labor center wants human traffickers exposed

[illegible]

Wild, wonderful lizards liven up Read-Along

From page A1

Fulfilling experience

Rizal's fable



KUYA KIM reads "The Gathering" by Haribon Foundation

Exchange students

Favorite stories

Sponsors, next session

March 28

Unesco chief assails killing of broadcaster

From page A1

Shot in the head

Reporters Without Borders

Gonzales bristles

Dialogue with MacDonald

LANDMARK

DEALS on WHEELS
RAFFLE PROMO

FIRST DRAW WINNERS



AIMEE L. GAMBOA
Quezon City



GRACE DEL CALLAR
Quezon City



ARNEL R. SUGATAN
Manila

30 WINNERS OF 10,000.00 WORTH OF LANDMARK GIFT CERTIFICATES

100 WINNERS OF 5,000.00 WORTH OF LANDMARK GIFT CERTIFICATES

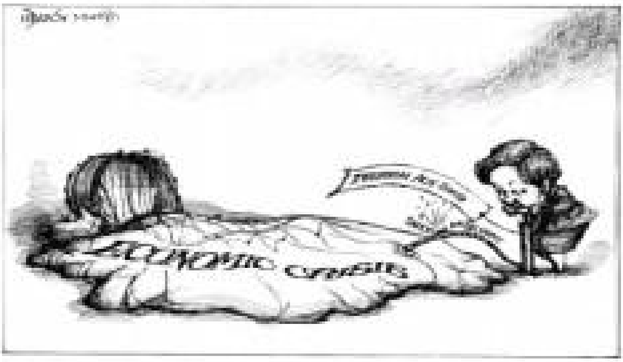
THE LANDMARK
MAKATI TRINOMA

INQUIRER

OPINION

Dishonesty pays

EDITORIAL



Yap and his undersecretary reply

AS I SEE IT



Neal H. Cruz

The call

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

South China Sea standoff

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



Blowback in Mexico's drug wars

WORLD VIEW

Jorge Chabat

> Calderón's offensive increased his popularity, but it also provoked a new rise in violence, as the drug gangs not only battled government forces, but also settled accounts among themselves

Instant feedback

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



Land

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



Instead of retrenchment NFA union proposes voluntary retirement

LETTERS

The President's lasting legacy?

Royale Homes celebrates 14th Annual Awards and General Assembly





Unemployment rate worsens, hits 7.7 percent

Parad calls up Gordon to deny he's dead, only wounded

GMA hiring order confuses gov't agencies on streamlining program

Sa kanila ang bukas

At pinapanday ng Makati ang kanilang kinabukasan ngayon



Sa pamumuno ni Mayor Jejomar C. Binay at ng pamahalaang lungsod - at sa pagtutulungan ng mga mamamayan, negosyante, pribadong indibidwal at mga nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) - nabahanayan at naisusulong ang karapatan at kagalingan ng mga bata sa Makati.

Tatlong ulit nang ginawaran ang Makati ng parangal bilang Most Child-Friendly City sa Metro Manila at Nutrition Honor Awardee. Kinilala rin ang siyudad ng World Health Organization (WHO) at ng Department of Health (DOH) sa pagsusulong nito ng breast feeding sa mga komunidad, at bilang unang local government unit na nagpatupad ng programang Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF). Sa Makati lang matatagpuan ang lying-in clinics na kumpleto sa newborn screening kits at mga kawani na sanay sa pag-aalaga sa mga bagong silang na sanggol. Gayundin, malaking tulong para sa mga bata ang libreng health insurance program ng siyudad para sa mga kapus-palad, kung saan ang premium ay binabayaran ng pamahalaang lungsod.

Sa larangan ng edukasyon, mahigit 20 porsiyento ng budget ng siyudad – mahigit sa isang bilyong piso - ang inilalaan taun-taon ng administrasyon ni Mayor Binay upang lalong pagyamanin ang sistema ng edukasyon. Sa mga paaralang pampubliko ng Makati, matatagpuan ang mga modernong school buildings, speech laboratories, science laboratories at iba pang makabagong pasilidad.

Bawat estudyante ay may computer na siya lang ang gumagamit, at tuwing pasukan, bawat estudyante ay may tigtigisang workbook at textbook. Bukod pa rito ang libreng bag, uniporme at gamit sa iskwela.

May feeding program para sa mga batang kulang sa timbang, at may insentibo para sa mga honor students. Pinagbubuhay ang pagtuturo ng Robotics, at may bukod-tanging programa para sa mga out of school children at children with special needs.

Sa Makati, nabibigyan ng pagkakataon ang bawat bata na tumanaw sa kinabukasan ng may galak at pag-asa.

Makati

Most Child-Friendly City in the Philippines

(Highly-Urbanized City Category)
Presidential Award for Child Friendly Cities and Municipalities
Council for the Welfare of Children
Awarded March 12 2009
Malacanang



www.makati.gov.ph

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

1st culinary museum now in the works

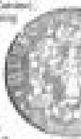
By Tonette Orejas
Angeles City

WHEN JOSE "JUJI" PARAS and Carmen "Toying" McTavish spoke to open last week's fund-raising dinner at the Museo ning Angeles, they were 100-percent certain of embarking on a breakthrough.

[illegible]



THE MUSEO ning Angeles in Pampanga will be home to the country's first culinary museum.



LOGO of the culinary museum

Gourmet province

[illegible]

> The museum is dedicated to the Kapampangan culinary art and science in particular, and Philippine food history in general

[illegible]

Interactive kitchen

[illegible]

Pangasinan cyclist still rides bike at 72

By Gabriel Cardinoza
Lingayen, Pangasinan

AT 72, FORMER TOUR OF Luzon champion Edmundo de Guzman is still into cycling, the sport he loves most. Every weekend, he joins a group of cycling enthusiasts in the Pangasinan capital Lingayen and pedals hard to the uphill roads of Sual town, more than 20 km away.

HOMETOWN Snapshots

[illegible]



1962 Tour of Luzon champion Edmundo de Guzman

Governor of Laguna sued for plunder

THE PROVINCIAL TREASURER OF LAGUNA yesterday filed plunder charges against Laguna Gov. Teresita Lazaro for allegedly amassing some P50 million in ill-gotten wealth through alleged anomalous transactions favoring "dummy" businesses of her family.

Lower revenue from taxes sign of bad times in E. Visayas



PINATUBO REVISITED

4 provinces recipients of $6M in Spanish grant

Bomb attack cuts off power in C. Mindanao

Dark places

2nd attack

Villagers feel beat for complaining vs coal wastes



Norwegian grandma fires ace—and how

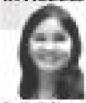
SPORTS

Balse, Roces lead Shakey's camp

Artest big boost for Rockets

Manny wants 'giant network' to cover fights

IN HUDDLE



Betty Go-Jo



'Solar sought deal discount'

In exchange for 'lockout,' says PBA

Titans battle Bulls; Kings take on Painters

IOC to Peping: Patch things up with PSC



SPORTSWATCH

Federer, Murray advance

4 entries lead SJC cockfest

Yeng gives RP Team a '7' rating



GUIAO: No tuneups

infinity

present

The Leadership Conference Series 2



Together with



Hon. Artemio Panganiban
Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court



Cecilio K. Pedro
CEO, Lamoiyan Corporation



Cheche Lazaro
Moderator

March 23, 2009

Sofitel Philippine Plaza, Harbor Garden Tent

Registration starts at 12 nn • Program starts at 2 pm

Tickets:

VIP : P25,000 • P15,000 • P10,000 (incl. of VAT)

General Admission : P5,000 • P3,000 • P1,000 (excl. of VAT)

Call TICKETWORLD **at 891-9999 • www.ticketworld.com.ph**

Strict security guidelines will be implemented.
All participants must register 1.5 hours before the program,
and must present a valid, government-issued ID with photo.

PLDT SMART FOUNDATION gsk

ANC BusinessWorld BusinessMirror MANILA BULLETIN CAMPAIGNS & GREY SOFITEL

Aplus
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday
METRO



Measure divides Manila City Council

Proposed ordinance could allow oil firms to stay in Pandacan

A PROPOSED ORDINANCE THAT WOULD CREATE zones for medium and heavy industries in Manila has divided the city council with those opposed pointing to possible health risks and those in favor citing the generation of jobs and additional revenues for the city government.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR NGOs & FOUNDATIONS SEMINAR





4 Fairview village execs hunted over slay case

Cop exec faces raps for beating up neighbor

By Julie M. Aurelio

By Nancy C. Carvajal

Measure divides council



THE RAINS which poured yesterday over Metro Manila provided a dramatic and cool relief to commuters in many parts of the metropolis.

Summer rains bring cool respite to Metro

MetroBriefs

Dutch tourists robbed

Hit by speeding bus

ATM vandalized

Summer jobs available

Unesco forum set

Cops clueless on newborn kidnap

By Jeannette I. Andrade

Did you know


AYALA LIFE
ASSURANCE INCORPORATED
Congratulations to our
Top Performers who broke barriers
in 2008
GRAND AWARDEES
AGENCY PRODUCER CATEGORY
AGENCY MANAGER CATEGORY
BRANCH MANAGER CATEGORY
MILLION DOLLAR
ROUND TABLE
ACHIEVERS
AGENCY PRODUCER CATEGORY
AGENCY MANAGER CATEGORY
BRANCH MANAGER CATEGORY
DELEGATES
AGENCY MANAGER CATEGORY
AGENCY PRODUCER CATEGORY
SPECIAL AWARD
Ayala Life's Unwavering Strength

Smallest dinosaur discovered in N. America



THIS undated photo shows the blade-like slashing claw from the second toe of a Canadian specimen of the dinosaur.

Austria's Fritzl admits incest, denies murder



FRITZL covers his face as he leaves the court.

Walking, talking female robot to hit Japan catwalk



A RECEPTIONIST robot, produced by Japan's robot maker Kokoro, poses during a demonstration in Tokyo on March 2. The robot moves like a human and can converse with visitors.

WORLD BRIEFS

Al-Qaida blamed for tourist bombing

Sri Lanka rejects appeal for ceasefire

Malaysian lawmaker charged with sedition

US jets shoot down Iranian drone

N. Korea reopens border crossing

Soldiers seize a palace in Madagascar

Sarkozy faces no-confidence vote over Nato

US gov't wants $100-M Madoff assets forfeited

N. Korea's planned rocket launch a dilemma for Obama



WRITES 10

New Catholic Mass translation opposed

The WORLD

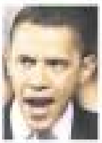
Obama vows to block AIG bonuses

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA called AIG reckless and greedy Monday during a blistering attack in which he pledged to try to block the insurance giant from handing its executives $165 million in bonuses after taking billions in federal aid.

Obama on Monday joined other officials in criticizing American International Group, the company that has lost become the symbol for the ways in which America's federal bailouts have gone awry.

A public backlash against Washington over the bonuses would make it tougher for Obama to ask Congress for more bailout help—and jeopardize other parts of the economy agenda that has dominated the early weeks of his presidency.

With that in mind, the president and his top aides were working hard to distance themselves from the insurer's conduct, to contain possible political damage and to try to bolster public confidence in his administration's handling of the broader economic rescue effort.



OBAMA

"How do they justify this outrage to the taxpayers who are keeping the company afloat?" Obama asked. "This isn't just a matter of dollars and cents. It's about our fundamental values."

Bailout steps for AIG totaling over $170 billion since September have effectively left the federal government with an 80 percent stake in the faltering insurance giant.

David Axelrod, senior adviser to Obama, said in an interview with The Associated Press that there was no question that the bonuses and the public's anger over them could derail administration efforts to right the economy. "People are angry because they've seen exhibit after exhibit of irresponsibility and people walking away with money in their pockets," he said. "It's [illegible] the discussion that we have to have."

Obama had scheduled a speech Monday to announce new help for recession-pounded small businesses, but first used the occasion to tear into AIG.

"This is a corporation that finds itself in financial distress due to recklessness and greed," Obama declared.

He said he had directed Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner to "pursue every legal avenue to block these bonuses and make the American taxpayer whole." AP

BUSINESS

First Pac eyes majority in Meralco

Waiting for other blocks going up for sale

THE GROUP OF PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CO. chair Manuel V. Pangilinan, which will soon control the single biggest block at 30.2 percent of Manila Electric Co., is willing to further raise its stake in the country's biggest retailer if any other blocks are for sale.

CURRENCIES

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end lower

Investors swamp auction for 4-year treasury bonds

Yield rises to 6.056%

First Pac eyes majority in Meralco

Conspiracies

BIZ BUZZ



Globe invests $90M in cable facility

By Doris L. Luna

GLOBE TELECOM INC. YESTERDAY [illegible] a new facility as part of an Asia-wide cable communications system meant to [illegible] the country from data outages similar to what happened during the Taiwan earthquake in 2006.

In a briefing yesterday the company said that its new $90 million investment in the so-called Tata Global Network-Intra Asia (TGN-IA) cable system would benefit companies that require robust and reliable data connectivity with overseas business partners.

The Philippines-Japan segment of the TGN-IA, the fourth cable landing station in the country and the second for Globe, was completed in December 2008.

Globe Business, the telecom firm's corporate business arm, said the facility would provide large corporations with alternative access around Asia and a more direct route to the United States with better connections.

"With the TGN-IA cable system now carrying traffic and serving customers, we move closer to achieving our vision of having the best connected network in the country," Globe Business head Gil Genio said. [illegible]



Eton launches QC townhouse project

HCPTI, partner still keen on North Harbor deal

More OFW families now saving, investing, says BSP



P1.45B FROM BDO

Monte Oro gets ₱2B worth of term loan

Abbott sees bright prospects in RP market

MWCI seeks 15-year contract extension

Utility's East Zone investment to be raised by 140%

SM ADVANTAGE EXCLUSIVE



ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN IN YOUR OWN HOME

In a medical emergency, you have a hotline to

Lifeline Rescue Services 16-911*

Your Php150 per person / year, assures you of a quick connection to Lifeline Rescue's medical emergency hotline



- **Quick-response services within Greater Metro Manila Area**
  including Antipolo, Taytay, Bacoor, Cainta, Meycauayan, Obando, San Jose del Monte Bulacan, San Pedro Laguna.
- **Round-the-clock phone consultations during medical emergencies**
- **Free ambulance service**
- **SAVE P850** from the regular rate of P1,000.
  Lifeline enrollment fee may be paid in cash or 150 SM Advantage points at any SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, SM Hypermarket, and thru the SM Advantage Hotline at 833-8888 (SM Advantage points only).

* Other hotline numbers:
839 - 2520 to 30

LIFELINE RESCUE

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

[illegible]

FOREX RATES

[illegible]

Globe invests $90M in cable facility

Globe's investment in the submarine cable system connects the Philippines with Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and Vietnam, with onward connectivity to Guam and the US mainland.

The facility provides added redundancy as the cable system is located at a separate location, far from all existing international cable landing stations currently in northern Luzon, and designed to stay away from the seismic area in Taiwan, beyond the immediate vicinity of the so-called Ring of Fire.

Located in Ballesteros, Cagayan, it is the first of its kind in Cagayan Valley. Globe's other landing station is located in Nasugbu, Batangas, and it became operational in 2001.

The project marks a milestone for Ballesteros as this project marked the town, a well-known gateway for international connectivity. Ballesteros has become one of the major access points for international traffic into and out of the Philippines.

Business

With promise of stable jobs, more people undergo BPO training

Fitch: Deficit won't affect RP credit

Ratings firm eases concerns over higher gov't spending

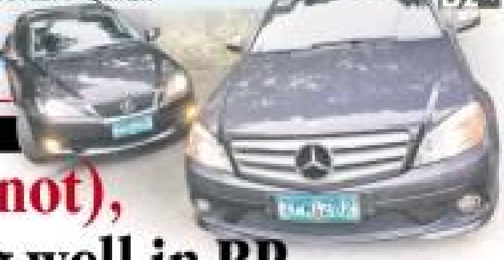
Gov't urged to take private sector out of stimulus plan



Air agreement to increase Australia-Philippines flights

ADB clean energy loans up by 153%

MOTORING



CHOICE OF THE RICH

Surprisingly (or not), luxury cars doing well in RP

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE LIST IS OUT, AND the results are quite expected. Forbes' "world's richest" list still contains nearly all of the familiar top-dollar names. But the ongoing global financial crisis has provided a sombering twist: Much of the billionaires lost money the past year.

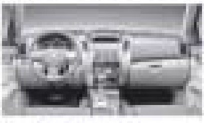
[illegible]

Selling more

[illegible]



Mitsubishi Motors Philippines introduces new Montero Sport 2.5 GLS 4x2



Montero Sport dashboard

Dimensions

Engine

Colors and prices



MONTERO Sport



Honda upholds passenger car leadership

Reinforced claim

Proved positive

Free service checkups at Petron stations nationwide

Free roadside assistance

Road safety awareness

Surprisingly (or not), luxury cars doing well in RP



XC90



WRC fantasy



BOHOL offers a perfect image to test the all-new City.

Perfect choice



Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

HAVING HAD THE chance of driving the all-new Honda City around the province of Bohol, this writer now knows why this [illegible] has selling sedan—1,462 units were already sold since its launch here in Jan. 7—is fast becoming a bright spot in an otherwise bleak car market.

If looks alone could close a deal, then the fifth-generation City's sleek and powerful stance will definitely impress a lot of car buyers.

Featuring streamlined grille, sharp headlights, aggressive-looking bumper and tail lights, the all-new Honda is more sophisticated and more sure-looking than its twin, the sporty and family-looking Jazz.

Despite the fact that the car shares so many things with the Jazz—powerplant offerings (1.3- or 1.5-liter i-VTEC engine), transmission types (5-speed automatic or the 5-speed manual version), suspension system (independent MacPherson strut with stabilizer in front and H-shape torsion beam with stabilizer at the rear), the all-new City still offered a different driving experience.

On the road, the all-new City exhibited a much smoother and less bouncy ride, courtesy of a much longer wheelbase (additional 3 cm) and heftier body weight than the Jazz (heavier by 25 kg to 50 kg, depending on the variants being compared).

Despite the added body weight, steering is light and accurate while cornering has always been a balanced affair.

While the 1.5-liter engine would seem a perfect match for the all-new City (you enjoy quick acceleration), the 1.3-liter would appeal to those who do mind their fuel consumption, especially if they are going to make most of their driving within the city's traffic-congested streets.

But if you want spirited driving, the all-new City's 1.5E variant is an excellent choice as it offers paddle shifters—located behind the steering wheel—that allows you to shift gears without the manual clutch as well as the S mode—located in the gear shift selector—which allows you to go past the redline before the car changes gear. The car's computer will kick in once over-revving is detected or if it detects that the engine will be overrevving on a downshift.

But whichever variant you choose, both engines are already Euro 4 compliant, which means the all-new City is among the cleanest burning cars you could buy here in the Philippines.

THE ALL-NEW Honda City is Euro 4 compliant, which means it is less harsh on the environment.







TOYOTA RECOGNIZES BEST DEALER PERFORMANCE

Toyota Cagayan de Oro City (TCO) receives the much-coveted President's Customer Service Cup of Excellence. Four dealers—Toyota Makati Inc., Toyota Balintawak Inc., TCO and Toyota San Fernando, Pampanga passed the stringent qualifications for the Dealer of the Year awards. The theme for this year's annual dealer conference revolved around going back to basics: the "Toyota Way: Pursuing Creativity, Challenge and Courage" which is very apt for the current economic situation.



The fuel price war

On the Road



Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

[illegible]

Lowest price

[illegible]

Cleared

[illegible]

Wonder

[illegible]

Toyota develops world's first rear-seat center airbag

[illegible]



[illegible]

LIFESTYLE Home & Entertaining

Cebu designers' challenge: How to niche in recession

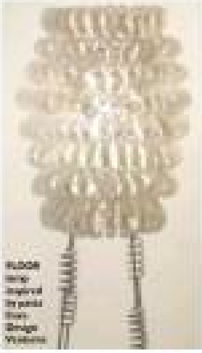
'The world doesn't need another chair or table' –Kenneth Cobonpue

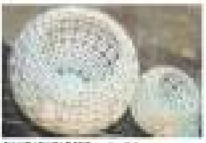


GLASS-TOPPED table

Last year

Cebu designers' challenge: How to niche in recession











Best pieces

How Amorita Resort got its lush landscape



Perched on a coral cliff, the hilltop hideaway melds the inside with the outside

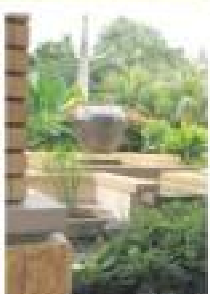




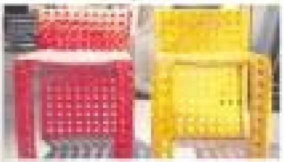




Visual impact



Iconic



WOVEN accent chairs



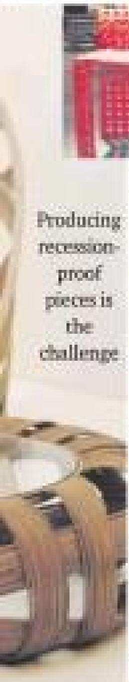
TOURISM Secretary Joseph Ace Durano and Cebu Governor Gwen Garcia



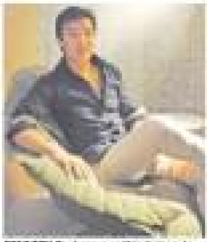
RECLINING chair doubles as a dog bed



CURLED wooden strips for an overhead lamp



Producing recession-proof pieces is the challenge



KENNETH Cobonpue and his chair made of techno fiber

Since the main material has distinct patterns produced by nature itself, no two pieces are alike. Palmer also has smaller, less expensive, but unique gift items—jewelry boxes, lampshades and candleholders.

"People may not be buying too many chairs anymore, but they can't do without gifts to give their loved ones," she said.

Untried areas

Designer Debbie Palao of Design Ventures Inc. said that creativity need not be limited to designing.

"Designers are looking into other forms of creativity like how to sell on the Internet and improve their image," she said. "We have enough good products. Maybe some people don't know these products exist."

Although the world may have had enough of new chairs, the challenge to designers and furniture makers to create something different will always be there.

"A client may say he doesn't need another chair. Our challenge is to produce something so unique that he's got to have it," said Palao.



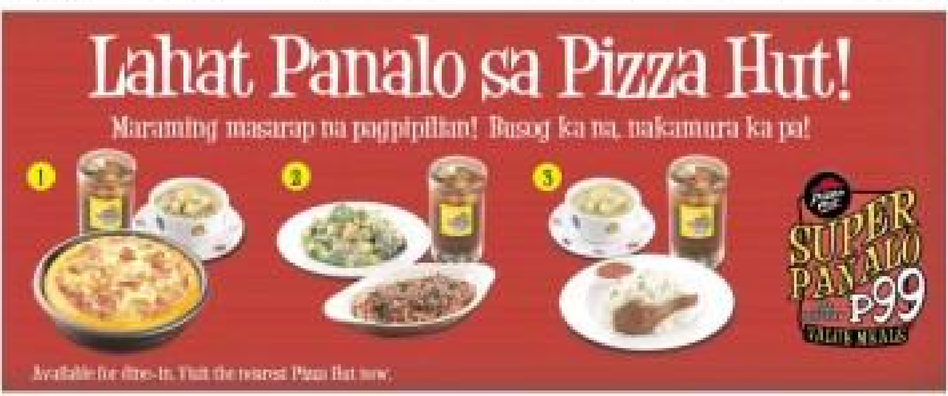
...LD tropical plants such as heliconias, red cardelines and elephant ears ...light the modern tropical architecture.

...served as natural screens. The ... Quiapo ... garden ... The ... furniture ... gardens. ... landscape ...



GOLDEN coconut palm trees camouflage the villa and add a dash of color.





New Italian home pieces



Y929 Chair

EXCLUSIVELY DISTRIBUTED BY DIMENSIONS, [illegible] showcases a unique, innovative line of furniture pieces and accents.

Whether you plan a party with friends or a small get-together at your home, setting up is a breeze with [illegible] Chairs (P11,500). Made of fine quality material such as polypropylene, this minimalistic design is available in sand, black, red and white.

Add a unique character to your dining room with the sleek and comfortable [illegible] Chairs (P14,950) available in white, black, white & [illegible], white & green, and white & red. [illegible] this design makes for a relaxing feast [illegible] dinner.

Take control of your personal preference in your room with [illegible] Chairs (P7,795), especially made of polypropylene charged with glass fibers. This [illegible] piece is available in yellow, white, white coffee, light violet, light blue and light grey.

[illegible] Chairs (P12,950), a unique shell seat made of polymer that is available in [illegible] colors.

Accentuate your room with [illegible] Chairs available in sand, black & red (P13,950) and in clear color (P17,950). This [illegible] shell seat is sure to draw attention and highlight your personal or family space.

Together with other Italian furniture brands [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible] further establishes Dimensions as the leading furniture retail store offering leading quality Italian home accents and furnishings.

Visit Dimensions at Bonifacio High Street; and at [illegible] in Glorietta 4, Robinsons Place [illegible], [illegible], SM City North Edsa, SM Megamall, Alabang Town Center, [illegible] and Mall of Asia.



[illegible] Chair in three colors

Manila FAME April 11

Manila FAME International runs April 11 to [illegible] at SMX Convention Center. [illegible] www.manilafame.com

Eco-product fair

[illegible]

Art installation

[illegible]

Film screenings

[illegible]

Wedding fair

[illegible]

Electronics exhibit

[illegible]

Storytelling workshop

[illegible]

Poetry competition

[illegible]

Motorcycle convention

[illegible]

LifeStyle Parenting



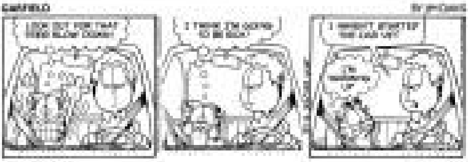


How to use Facebook as parenting tool

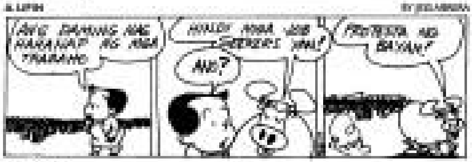
How to decode your child's colds and fever



GARFIELD



A. LIPIN

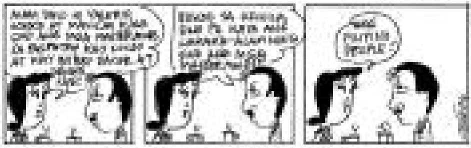


PUGAD BABOY



DICK TRACY





JAMES BOND

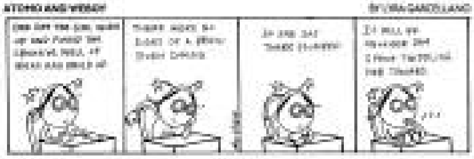


DIVINE COMEDY



BABY BLUES





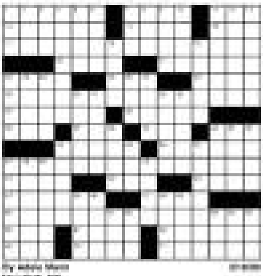
TULDOK

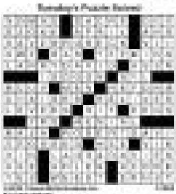






DAILY CROSSWORD





HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

					9	5	6	
				3				
	7	1	5		6	8	3	
6	3			4			7	8
7								3
2								1
8								6
	9						2	
		4	1	5	2	9		

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

How to use Facebook as parenting tool

ROOTS AND WINGS



Cathy Babao Guballa

Connecting

How to decode your child's colds and fever

When is fever a cause for worry? Plus, remedies to try at home

Home remedies

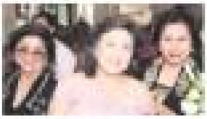
Common cold

Serious signs

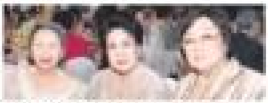
Fever

Treatments

Home remedies (with proper doctor's guidance)



MENCHU Enrique with Marilou Pineda and former senator Loi Ejercito



ANGELES Abes with Chloe Periquet and Lyn Santos



THE COMPLETE Basilio family



GOLDEN couple Bert and Nenie Basilio in golden wedding finery

Dazzling golden anniversary of well-liked couple



STARS of the night Cris and Baron Albert at the wedding-cum-goodbye bash

IT WAS A DAZZLING GOLDEN WEDDING anniversary for businessman Bert Basilio [illegible]

[illegible]



PRINCIPAL sponsors include [illegible]

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache



Photos by Alex Van Hagen using [illegible]

[illegible]

Pia couple

[illegible]

Macau food fest

[illegible]



MARCOS Bernasor with Irene Razon and Jerry Garcia



ENTREPRENEURS and beautiful women [illegible]



BOBBY Tiongson with Carlo, Lucy and Carter Albert



BORZOI [illegible]



MARCO Polo [illegible]



ERRATUM. In a photograph in the March 11 column, [illegible] was identified as the Macau Tourist Office Philippines resident manager. It should have been "general manager."



CREATIVE and talented chefs include [illegible]

ENTERTAINMENT

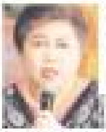
HBO open to producing films in RP



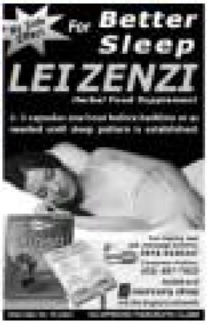
Censors board vs UP over permits

Commercial

Academic freedom


MARIETA Laguardia






LORNA Tolentino POPS Fernandez BILLY Crawford

Lascivious look from aging Lotbario

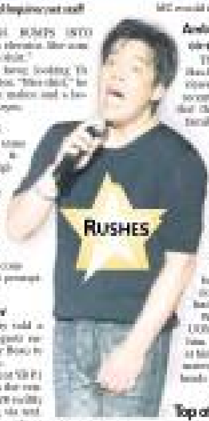
Incorrigible flirt

Real deal-breaker

Ambulance-chasing co-star

Hospitalized rocker

Top of the talk shows



MARTIN Nievera





SM CINEMA movietime



METRO MANILA
RESERVED SEATS NOW AVAILABLE

IMAX	PODIUM	CINEMA 1
FLY ME TO THE MOON THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL DINOSAURS SEA MONSTER	THE SECRET OF MONACRE RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN	JONAS BROTHERS

LUZON

VISAYAS - MINDANAO

At the Cinemas

GLORIETTA 4

GREENBELT 1

GREENBELT 3

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER CEBU

MARKET!MARKET!

TRINOMA



At the Malls

GLORIETTA

GREENBELT

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER CEBU

MARKET! MARKET!

TRINOMA

ONSTAGE



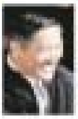
glorietta · GREENBELT · TRINOMA

Lascivious look from aging Lothario

From page E1

Approved

On cue



CHOW Yun-fat

Chow Yun-fat as Confucius

HONG KONG—DENOUNCED AS A FEUDAL thinker just decades ago, Confucius is getting the star treatment in communist China, with Chow Yun-fat cast as the ancient philosopher in a $21-million government-backed biopic, a production company official said Monday. AP

Did You Know...

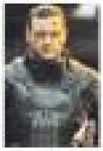
ENTERTAINMENT

OPENING TODAY

Sundo



Punisher: War Zone





The Secret of Moonacre

HBO ...

Specific markets

New kind of castaways in 'Survivor' 2

Summer shows

Gay role

Lovers or friends?

Guess list



Charice marathon on Studio 23











M M T A MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Walter Mart

New kind of castaways in 'Survivor' 2

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal



[illegible]



SURVIVOR Philippines' host Paolo Bediones